

KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
January 20, 2010

The organizational meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held January 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Joe Langdon, Don Keith, Carol Rose Fouts.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to pass on election of chairman for 2010; therefore, Joe Langdon remains chairman.

Langdon called for nominations for vice-chairman. Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Fouts and unanimously carried to elect Eckloff as vice-chairman.

Motion by Fouts supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to hold the Board of Commissioners official meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River. There will also be two budget meetings which will be held on November 10, 2010 and December 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River.

Chairman Langdon appointed the following committee members:

Economic Development	Keith	Historic Hiway/Byway	Stubenrauch
Building & Grounds	Eckloff	911 Committee	Keith
Human Services	Keith	MSU Extension	Langdon
Manpower Consortium	Eckloff/Stubenrauch	KEDA	Keith
Health Department	Stubenrauch/Langdon	Head Start	Fouts
UP Resource Conservation	Fouts	Finance/Budget	Langdon
US Port Authority	Keith	Road Commission	Eckloff
UPCAP	Stubenrauch	TriCounty Corrections	Fouts
Planning Commission	Fouts	WUPPDR	Stubenrauch/Langdon
Substance Abuse	Eckloff	Mental Health	Keith
Community Action	Stubenrauch	Recreation Bd-mileage	Fouts
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge	Eckloff	Resolutions	Full Board
Freedom of Information	Langdon	UP Fair Authority	Langdon

Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to name River Valley, Range, Superior National, Citizens and North Country banks as depositories for Keweenaw County funds.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

The minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting stood as written.

The Sheriff, Mine Inspector and Treasurer reports were received.

John Midkiff from the US Census Bureau appeared as a guest to talk about the upcoming Census. It is his goal to get everyone counted as these numbers affect all of us for the next ten years. They are recruiting workers at this time and are having a hard time getting people to take the test which would only take approximately one half of an hour. The jobs pay \$11.25 per hour and 50 cents a mile. These tests are being held at Michigan Works in Houghton.

Guy St Germaine from the Western UP Health Department came to inform the Board about what has happened over the last year at the Health Department. He discussed activities, programs, and finances and thanked the Board for their continued support. The Board also thanked the Health Department administration and staff for providing all of the services and their foresight even during hard economic times.

Keith stated that he should have removed the Clean Indoor Air item from the agenda. No action needed.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff to adopt the following resolution supporting the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners opposition to the MiWater Ballot Initiative;

WHEREAS the Upper Peninsula of Michigan faces a serious threat to the stability and future of the region's economy from the very prospect of the MiWater Ballot Initiative, and which if passed, would result in effectively prohibiting the region's citizens from realizing the benefits of a vital mineral production industrial sector; and

WHEREAS proponents of the ballot initiative reside in and are waging the initiative from wealthy Grosse Pointe, Michigan and other southeast Michigan communities-some 400 miles from the heart of the Upper Peninsula and distinctly removed from the daily issues of concern of residents and communities of the Upper Peninsula, cause the elected leaders of the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners, and

the organization itself, to question the capacity of proponents to know the best interests of the Upper Peninsula, our citizens, families and communities; and

WHEREAS the MiWater Ballot Initiative is written effectively such that its result would be to impact only the natural resource industry and specific economic interests of the Upper Peninsula including job creation, taxable investment, philanthropic support, education and workforce enhancements among them, and would not have effective application to any other of the state's regions; and

WHEREAS Grosse Pointe, the base of the proponents of the ballot initiative, was built on the back of Michigan's automobile industry, which historically could not and cannot today exist or prosper without the reliable supply of minerals produced from mining; and

WHEREAS Grosse Pointe was the home of automobile industry father Henry T. Ford, who invested in the acquisition of hundreds of thousands of acres of mineral rights and forest lands in the Upper Peninsula to supply the necessary raw materials for the automobile industry, and where Grosse Pointe remains today the home of Henry Ford's heirs; and

WHEREAS mining was the industry upon which the Upper Peninsula was founded, and which has served to create the social, cultural and economic fabric of the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS the Upper Peninsula boasts a proud heritage of mining, which has contributed to the betterment of society by contributing the raw materials and metals-the building blocks of society; and

WHEREAS mining is one of the core societal wealth producing industries, along with agriculture, manufacturing and construction; and

WHEREAS the Upper Peninsula with its unique geologic assets is compelled to utilize these assets in a responsible, strategic, and meaningful fashion for the betterment of the region and its citizens;

WHEREAS the Michigan Legislature and Governor to the State of Michigan in 2004 enacted a new mining law and regulations that modernize and strictly govern mining operations in Michigan. This law and implementing regulations are deemed the strictest of any state in the U.S., and require substantial finance bonding; and

WHEREAS modern mining is conducted using advanced technologies, science, practices, measures that prevent, minimize, or remedy adverse environmental impacts associated with an industrial mining operation;

WHEREAS mining and natural resource based industries have provided the backbone of the region's economy and today, the region stands poised to renew its natural resource based economic sector, create hundreds of good paying and well-benefiting jobs for local people; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.P. Association of County Commissioners recognizes the serious threat posed by the MiWater Ballot Initiative to the regions economic well-being; and the threat the MiWater Ballot Initiative poses to the fairness of the Upper Peninsula to determine its own course, and to utilize its unique assets for competitive advantage; that proponents of the MiWater Ballot Initiative do not share in common the economic, social and everyday priorities of the Upper Peninsula; and that modern mining can and is providing society's building blocks while operating in compliance with strict laws and regulations set forth by the State to protect our environment; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners strongly opposes the prospect and/or passage of the MiWater Ballot Initiative.

Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Langdon. Nays: Keith, Fouths. Motion carried. **(#10-1)**

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$166,067.93, Construction Codes=\$541.94, 911 Fund=\$991.07, EDC=\$6,015.48, Law Library=\$245.71, Medical Care=\$1,916.87 Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff to allow Langdon to sign the contract as presented by Robert Mikesch to do the Financial Report for Keweenaw County. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Keith stated that Smoky the Bear is missing from the DNR Fire sign between Allouez and New Allouez. It is believed that this is due to theft as other signs were missing around that same time. Keith would like to see the sign replaced. There is no action needed tonight as this will be taken up at the Road Commission meeting.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to make the following reappointments:
Planning Commission—Jim Huovinen, Richard Schaefer, Tom O'Callaghan-all expiring on 12/31/2012
Zoning Board of Appeals—Pauline Johnson, Steve Peters-both expiring on 12/31/2013
EDC—Tom O'Callaghan, Richard Schaefer, Ray Chase-all expiring on 12/31/2012
Brownfield—Steve Karpiak, Michael Musiel-both expiring on 12/31/2012
Bd of Canvassers—Katie Gaabo-expiring on 10/31/2013
Jury Commission—Joe Enrietti-expiring on 4/30/2014

There being no further business motion by Stubenrauch to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

